United Nations S/2007/174

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 March 2007

Original: English

Letter dated 22 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Peru in November 2006. The assessment is the responsibility of the Peruvian delegation and it has been prepared after consultations with the other members of the Council.

I would greatly appreciate it if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Voto-Bernales**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations

07-28344 (E) 110407

Annex to the letter dated 22 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Peru (November 2006)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Peru in November 2006, the Security Council addressed a diverse range of issues on its agenda, including Haiti, the Middle East including the Palestinian question, the Sudan including Darfur, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Côte d'Ivoire, and thematic issues such as children and armed conflict and the prevention of armed conflict.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, José Antonio García Belaunde, presided the Security Council in the open debate on children and armed conflict convened on 28 November, at the end of which the Council adopted a presidential statement.

During the month of November, the Council held 15 public meetings, including three open debates, one debate and two briefings, and adopted four resolutions and five presidential statements. In addition the Council held consultations of the whole on 14 separate occasions. The President also made three statements to the press on behalf of the Security Council, sent eight letters to the Secretary-General, and delivered a statement, on behalf of the Council, on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

On 2 November, the President of the Security Council briefed the press on the work programme of the Council for November. The presidency provided updates on the programme of work through the website of the Security Council, through a designated official to update non-members of the Council after informal consultations, and when required by the President at the press stakeout.

The five newly elected members of the Security Council were invited to attend as observers all the meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and the informal consultations of the whole, from mid-November, as agreed by the Council in 2006 (see S/2006/507).

Americas

Haiti

On 16 November, during informal consultations, the Council was briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jane Holl Lute, on the situation in Haiti. At the consultations the Council adopted a statement to the press, deeply regretting the deaths of two Jordanian peacekeepers while serving the cause of peace in that country; reiterating their sustained support to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH); expressing their determination to continue to closely follow the situation, in order to work cooperatively with the Government of Haiti to consolidate a stable environment that would enable progress and development; and voicing their expectation that the municipal and local

elections, scheduled for 3 December, would be carried out in a peaceful ambiance, with the support of MINUSTAH.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

On 1 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1721 (2006), by which it endorsed the decision of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union and stated that the provisions of the resolution aimed at implementing fully the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire and at organizing free, open, fair and transparent elections in that country by 31 October 2007. The Council affirmed that such provisions were intended to be applicable during the transition period until a newly elected President took up his duties and a new National Assembly was elected. The Council also endorsed the decisions of the Peace and Security Council that the President of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, should remain Head of State as from 1 November 2006 for a new transition period not exceeding 12 months and to renew the mandate of the Prime Minister, Charles Konan Banny, for the same period.

In the resolution the Council also stressed, inter alia, that the Prime Minister should have a mandate to implement all the provisions of the road map drawn up by the International Working Group and of the agreements concluded between the Ivorian parties. The Council also renewed for a 12-month period the mandate of the High Representative for the elections.

Central African Republic

On 22 November the Security Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/47), by which it welcomed the efforts of the Government of the Central African Republic to revive political dialogue and to implement the reforms with a view to restoring economic growth and reducing poverty in the country. The Council reiterated its support for the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic and decided to renew its mandate until 31 December 2007.

The Council expressed also its serious concern that instability along the border areas of Chad, the Sudan and the Central African Republic represented a threat to security and stability in those countries, and called for the adoption of a subregional approach to stabilize the borders of the Central African Republic.

Chad/Central African Republic/Sudan

During informal consultations on 22 November, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, informed the Council that a United Nations technical assistance mission had arrived in Chad on 20 November and would also travel to the Central African Republic to explore a possible presence in either or both countries, and that its recommendations would be presented to the Council. Nevertheless he warned that the worsening security situation would have an impact on the mission's work.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 2 and 17 November, during informal consultations, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Director of the Africa Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Dimitri Titov, briefed the Council on the latest developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular the second round of presidential and provincial elections held on 29 October 2006.

On 7 November the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/44), by which it commended the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who had participated peacefully and in large numbers in the elections; expressed its gratitude to the Independent Electoral Commission and the Congolese National Police for their central role in, respectively, organizing the elections and providing security for them; underlined the role of the High Media Authority, the International Committee of Eminent Persons and the International Committee in Support of the Transition, and welcomed the support provided for the election process by the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the EUFOR operation and other international and regional partners.

The Council recalled the historic significance of the elections and looked forward to the installation of a democratically elected government. It stressed that the new authorities and all Congolese political actors would be responsible for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the restoration of peace and stability and for continuing to promote national reconciliation and the establishment of democratic institutions and the rule of law in the country.

On 17 November the President of the Council delivered a statement to the press, by which the Council welcomed the announcement by the Independent Electoral Commission of the official provisional results of the second round of the presidential election and appealed to the sense of civic responsibility of the Congolese people, so that the electoral process could be concluded in a calm and peaceful climate.

Great Lakes (Lord's Resistance Army)

On 7 November 2006, at informal consultations, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahim Gambari, briefed the Council on the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and on the continuation of the Juba talks between the Government of Uganda and LRA.

On 16 November the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PSRT/2006/45), by which it welcomed the renewed cessation of hostilities on 1 November 2006, and commended the Government of Southern Sudan for facilitating that agreement. The Council demanded that LRA immediately release all women, children and other non-combatants, and that the peace process be concluded expeditiously. The Council welcomed the announcement by the Government of Uganda of the establishment of a Joint Monitoring Committee to oversee the delivery of a prioritized emergency action plan to tackle the humanitarian issues in northern Uganda and the work of the Government on its peace, recovery and development plan to address the long-term needs of the region.

Somalia

On 7 November, during informal consultations, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, François Fall, briefed the Council on the situation in Somalia, focusing on the status of the peace talks; the military build-up on the ground and its regional dimension, including proposed options regarding the way forward; and the humanitarian situation on the ground.

He pointed out the need for a dialogue between the Transitional Federal Government and the Union of Islamic Courts, as the best option for avoiding an escalation of a conflict that could have a regional destabilization effect.

On 29 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1724 (2006), by which it requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992), to re-establish for a six-month period the Monitoring Group referred to in paragraph 3 of resolution 1558 (2004). In the resolution, which was submitted by the delegation of Qatar, the Council also requested a midterm briefing and a final report on the work of the Monitoring Group, through the Committee, covering all the tasks set out in the resolution; requested the Committee to consider the recommendations in the reports of the Monitoring Group dated 5 April and 16 October 2006; and stressed the obligation of all Member States to comply fully with the measures imposed by resolution 733 (1992).

Sudan

After informal consultations held on 7, 9 and 10 November, the Council failed to reach agreement on dispatching a delegation to attend a consultative meeting convened by the Chairman of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union to bring together the African Union, the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations to discuss issues relating to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Darfur and the concerns raised by the Government of the Sudan with respect to the impact of that deployment.

On 14 November, at informal consultations, the Council received a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the initiative taken by the Secretary-General to hold a high-level meeting in Addis Ababa on 16 November with the African Union, representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the League of Arab States, the European Union and the Government of the Sudan.

On 22 November, at informal consultations, the Secretary-General and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the above-mentioned high-level meeting. The Secretary-General stated that the participants had agreed that, on the political process, only a negotiated settlement based on the Darfur Peace Agreement could end the crisis. To that end, he said, the United Nations and the African Union would convene a meeting of the signatories and non-signatories of the Agreement to resolve outstanding issues. The Secretary-General also noted that the participants had confirmed the importance of all parties ceasing hostilities immediately.

On the peacekeeping operation, the Secretary-General noted that a number of principles had been clarified, including the financial and logistical requirements for a sustainable force and its predominantly African nature. He also informed the Council that the participants in the meeting had decided to take concrete actions to

strengthen the African Union Mission in the Sudan by implementing a phased United Nations approach, from a light support package to a heavy support package and to an African Union/United Nations hybrid operation. He also stated that the delegation of the Sudan had expressed reservations on two elements, the force size and the joint appointment of the Special Representative and the Force Commander of the envisaged hybrid operation. The Secretary-General noted that he and the African Union Chairperson were awaiting a written response on those issues from the President of the Sudan.

On 27 November, at informal consultations, Ambassador Adamantios Vassilakis, the Permanent Representative of Greece and Chairman of the Committee on the Sudan established by resolution 1591 (2005), briefed the Council on the discussions held in the Committee on the latest report of the Panel of Experts (S/2006/795). He also detailed the actions taken by the Committee regarding a number of recommendations contained in the report as well as on those recommendations on which the Committee was unable to reach a consensus.

Humanitarian situation in Africa/Darfur and Northern Uganda

On 22 November, at a briefing, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, informed the Council about the humanitarian situation in Darfur and northern Uganda. After concluding his fourth visit to Darfur, the Under-Secretary-General had returned with what he called a plea from the beleaguered Darfurians for immediate Council action to finally stop the atrocities against them. After mentioning the achievements of what he described as the world's largest humanitarian operation, he stressed the current risks and pointed out two areas that needed to be addressed with the utmost urgency: an immediate stop to all attacks, the cessation of hostilities and respect for the ceasefire by all parties; and the immediate and lasting implementation of all freedom of movement guarantees afforded by the Government of the Sudan in the moratorium of July 2004, the status-of-mission Agreement and the Darfur Peace Agreement that were currently not granted.

On the situation in northern Uganda, the Under-Secretary-General highlighted the critical importance of continued funding for the mediation effort led by the Government of Southern Sudan and for ceasefire monitoring through the Juba initiative of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to support the Juba peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army, which, he stressed, is the best hope ever of bringing the cruel conflict to an end.

Asia

Afghanistan

Afghanistan was visited by a mission of the Security Council. The mission, which left New York on 9 November and returned on 17 November, was led by the Permanent Representative of Japan, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima, and included representatives from Argentina, Denmark, France, Greece, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

On 22 November, the Council held a briefing, at which Ambassador Oshima made a preliminary oral report on the mission, recalling the points that the mission had conveyed to the Afghan authorities and other interlocutors and presenting an overall assessment of the findings, achievements and challenges that faced Afghanistan, including the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. The final report of the Council mission was issued and discussed in December.

Myanmar

On 27 November, at informal consultations, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs briefed the Council on his visit to Myanmar from 9 to 12 November. He reported that he had been granted the same access as during his previous visit, in September, and explained the issues that he had stressed in his meetings, requesting the need for progress in those issues.

The Under-Secretary-General also observed that the authorities had voiced their views and concerns, reflecting their willingness to better understand other viewpoints and remain engaged through dialogue on substantive issues, although they had made no clear or immediate commitments on the suggestions he had raised. He also considered that both the Government of Myanmar and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy viewed the United Nations as a channel for communication, which indicated that there might be space for the two sides to seek common ground. The Under-Secretary-General concluded that the Secretary-General's good offices role remained available to help Myanmar's leadership to make the right choice, with the support of the international community, including the Security Council.

Nepal

On 29 November, at informal consultations, the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General in Nepal, Ian Martin, presented an oral report on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on 21 November by the Government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) and on the request of the parties (see S/2006/920) for United Nations assistance in implementing the Agreement, in particular monitoring of arrangements relating to the management of arms and armed personnel of both sides and for the electoral process.

During the consultations the Security Council agreed that the United Nations should respond positively and expeditiously to that request and expressed support for the Secretary-General's intention to send a technical assessment mission to Nepal with a view to proposing a fully developed concept of United Nations operations, including a United Nations political mission to deliver the assistance requested. The Council agreed also to adopt a presidential statement on this matter on 1 December.

Iraq

On 28 November, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1723 (2006), by which it decided, at the request of the Government of Iraq, to extend the mandate of the multinational force in Iraq until 31 December 2007, or terminate it earlier if so requested by the Government of Iraq, and reaffirmed the authorization for that force as set out in resolution 1546 (2004). The Council also welcomed the formation of a

national unity government and looked forward to the day Iraqi forces would assume full responsibility for the maintenance of security and stability in their country.

Under the resolution, which was sponsored by the delegations of Denmark, Japan, Slovakia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, the Council also extended until 31 December 2007 the arrangements established in resolution 1483 (2003) for the depositing into the Development Fund for Iraq of proceeds from export sales of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and for the monitoring of the Fund by the International Advisory and Monitoring Board.

The Council affirmed the leading role the United Nations should continue to play in assisting the Iraqi people and Government with further political and economic development, and requested quarterly reports from the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and from the United States of America, on behalf of the multinational force, on the efforts and progress of the force.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 9 November, at the request of the delegations of Qatar on behalf of the League of Arab States (S/2006/868), Azerbaijan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (S/2006/869), and Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (S/2006/871), the Security Council held an open debate to discuss the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Angela Kane, briefed the Council on the latest developments in the region, particularly a weeklong military operation undertaken by the Israeli army in northern Gaza that killed and injured a number of Palestinians. The Assistant Secretary-General expressed her hope that Israelis and Palestinians would, in the wake of that tragedy, reflect on the fact that the conflict between them would not be resolved by force and that ways must be found to bring about negotiations.

At the open debate the observer delegation of Palestine, the delegation of Israel, the Council members, 24 other Member States, and the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States made statements. At their request three of them were allowed to make a second statement.

On 10 November a draft resolution on the deteriorating situation on the Occupied Palestinian Territory was submitted to the Security Council by the delegation of Qatar. The draft resolution (S/2006/878) was put to the vote on 11 November and was not adopted owing to the negative vote of the United States of America, a permanent member. The draft also received 10 votes in favour (Argentina, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Greece, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, United Republic of Tanzania) and 4 abstentions (Denmark, Japan, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

On 21 November the Council held a second open debate on the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who updated the Council on the latest developments in

the Occupied Territory, Israel and Lebanon and the fragile situation for the peace process in the region. The observer delegation of Palestine, the delegation of Israel, the Council members and three other Member States made statements during the open debate.

Lebanon

On 20 November, the Legal Counsel and Under-Secretary-General, Nicolas Michel, briefed the Council members on the report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/893 and Add.1) regarding a draft agreement on the establishment of a Special Tribunal for Lebanon, submitted in accordance with resolution 1664 (2006) and after concluding negotiations with the Government of Lebanon on that issue.

After consultations held on 21 November, the President of the Security Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2006/911) expressing the Council's satisfaction with the draft agreement and the statute of the Special Tribunal annexed to the above-mentioned report. The President also expressed the Council's support for dividing the financing of the Special Tribunal between voluntary contributions from States (51%) and the Government of Lebanon (49%). Finally the President invited the Secretary-General to proceed, together with the Government of Lebanon and in conformity with the Constitution of Lebanon, with the final steps for the conclusion of the agreement.

On 21 November the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on the assassination in Beirut on that day of the Minister of Industry of Lebanon, Pierre Gemayel. The Council members adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/46) condemning the assassination and expressing its condolences. The Council also condemned any attempt to destabilize Lebanon through political assassination or other terrorist acts and, inter alia, welcomed the determination and commitment of the Government of Lebanon to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of this and other assassinations, and underlined the Council's determination to support those efforts.

After consultations on 22 November, the President of the Council addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2006/915) inviting him to inform the Government of Lebanon that the Council had carefully considered the Government's request for assistance and had authorized the International Independent Investigation Commission to extend its technical assistance, as appropriate, to the Lebanese authorities in the investigation of the murder of Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 21 November, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1722 (2006), by which it authorized the extension for a further period of 12 months of the multinational stabilization force (EUFOR). The Council also called upon the parties to comply strictly with their obligations under the Peace Agreement and the Dayton Agreement on implementing the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and reiterated that the primary responsibility for the further successful implementation of the Peace Agreement lay with the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina themselves and that the continued willingness of the international community and

major donors to assume the political, military and economic burden would be determined by the compliance and active participation of those authorities in implementing the Peace Agreement.

The Council also reaffirmed the final authority in theatre of the High Representative regarding the interpretation of civilian implementation of the Peace Agreement, as established under annex 10 of the Peace Agreement.

Thematic and other issues

Children and armed conflict

Under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Peru, Ambassador José Antonio García Belaunde, the Council on 28 November held an open debate on children and armed conflict. Opening statements were made by the Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, and the Executive Director of UNICEF, Ann M. Veneman. The Council members as well as 24 other Member States made statements during the open debate, addressing a number of important issues. A representative of the non-governmental organization Save the Children, Gabriel Oling Olang, also made a statement.

At the end of the open debate the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/48), in which it expressed its appreciation for the sixth report of the Secretary-General on this issue (S/2006/826) and commended the positive developments in the implementation of its resolution 1612 (2005), in particular the first country reports of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict, and the increasing development by some parties to armed conflict of action plans to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers; the work carried out by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and by UNICEF and the child protection advisers of peacekeeping operations; the cooperation extended to them by some parties to armed conflicts; and the sustained activities of its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

The Council also strongly condemned the continuing recruitment and use of children in armed conflict; reiterated its commitment to address the widespread impact of armed conflict on children; invited the relevant States affected by armed conflict to join the monitoring and reporting mechanism on a voluntary basis; called on relevant parties to armed conflict that had not already done so to prepare and implement concrete time-bound action plans to halt the recruitment and use of children; and requested the Secretary-General to submit by February 2008 a detailed report on further progress in the implementation of resolution 1612 (2005).

Prevention of armed conflict/Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

On 14 November, at informal consultations, the Council was briefed by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Juan Méndez, who gave the Council, for the first time, an overview of the activities he had carried out since his appointment in August 2004. The Special Adviser explained the methodology adopted in fulfilment of his mandate as set out in the letter of 12 July 2004 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/2004/567), and made comments on the Council's early-warning needs as

expressed, inter alia, in resolution 1366 (2001) and the possible role of the Special Adviser in that regard.

The Special Adviser concluded from his own experience that, in both the short and the long term, the prevention of genocide seemed predicated on acting comprehensively in four interrelated areas: the protection of populations at risk against serious or massive violations of human rights or humanitarian law; establishing accountability for violations of human rights and humanitarian law; providing humanitarian relief or access to basic economic, social and cultural rights; and taking steps to address underlying causes of conflict through peace agreements and transitional processes.

The Council members exchanged views with the Special Adviser on his mandate and the best way to continue cooperation with the Security Council and its members in providing early-warning and early-action recommendations with a view to averting future failures of the United Nations to prevent genocide.

Documentation and other procedural questions

On 21 November, following a recommendation of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, the President of the Security Council sent a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2006/928) requesting an updated version of the descriptive index to notes and statements issued by the Council relating to documentation and procedure for the purpose of providing greater ease of reference to this material for all States Members of the United Nations.

Other matters

On 29 November, at informal consultations, the Council adopted a statement to the press expressing its concern about the challenges posed by the Military Commander of Fiji to the Government of Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase. They called upon the military to exercise restraint and avoid taking any action that would undermine the rule of law in Fiji, and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue to use his good offices to help to resolve the dispute in an orderly and peaceful manner.